

STEP™
into Reading

A Step 2 Book
Grades 1-3

Wild, Wild WOLVES

By Joyce Milton
Illustrated by
Larry Schwinger



I have read this book all by myself!

(my name)

(date)



A NOTE TO PARENTS

When your children are ready to "step into reading," giving them the right books—and lots of them—is as crucial as giving them the right food to eat. **Step into Reading Books** present exciting stories and information reinforced with lively, colorful illustrations that make learning to read fun, satisfying, and worthwhile. They are priced so that acquiring an entire library of them is affordable. And they are beginning readers with an important difference—they're written on four levels.

Step 1 Books, with their very large type and extremely simple vocabulary, have been created for the very youngest readers. **Step 2 Books** are both longer and slightly more difficult. **Step 3 Books**, written to mid-second-grade reading levels, are for the child who has acquired even greater reading skills. **Step 4 Books** offer exciting nonfiction for the increasingly proficient reader.

Children develop at different ages. **Step into Reading Books**, with their four levels of reading, are designed to help children become good—and interested—readers *faster*. The grade levels assigned to the four steps—preschool through grade 1 for Step 1, grades 1 through 3 for Step 2, grades 2 and 3 for Step 3, and grades 2 through 4 for Step 4—are intended only as guides. Some children move through all four steps very rapidly; others climb the steps over a period of several years. These books will help your child "step into reading" in style!

Step into Reading

Wild, Wild WOLVES

By Joyce Milton
Illustrated by Larry Schwinger

A Step 2 Book



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tactics, growth, and development, and explores myths and legends about them.

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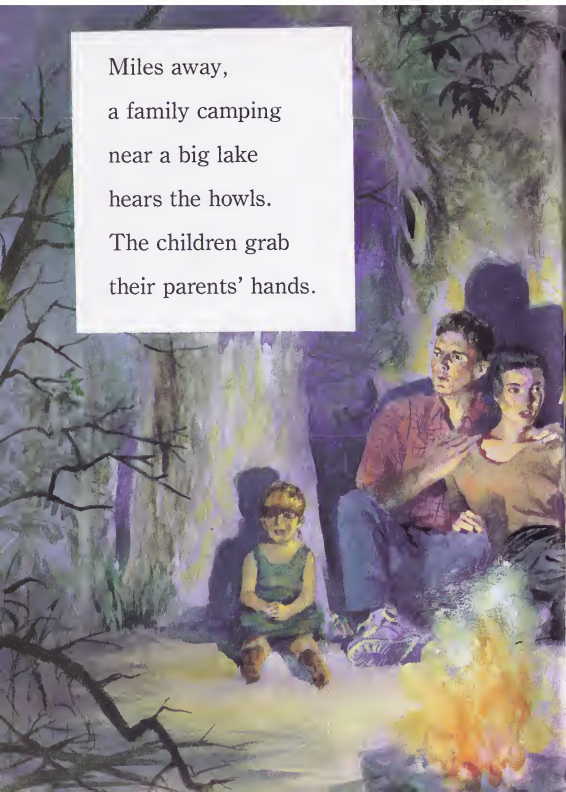


On a summer night
in the far north
a wolf is howling.
"OW-OOO!
OW-OOO!"

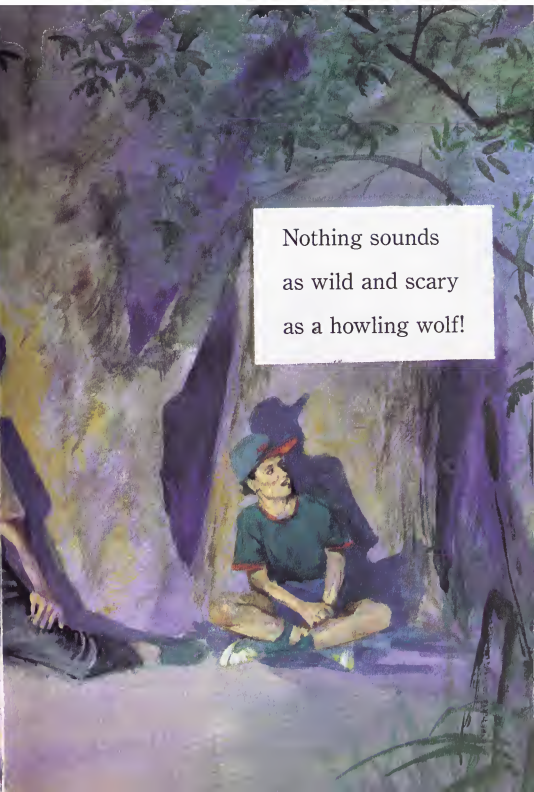


One by one, all the wolves
for miles around
throw back their heads
and join in—
"OW-OW-OW-OWOOO!"

Miles away,
a family camping
near a big lake
hears the howls.
The children grab
their parents' hands.



Nothing sounds
as wild and scary
as a howling wolf!



Do wolves howl
just before they attack?

No!

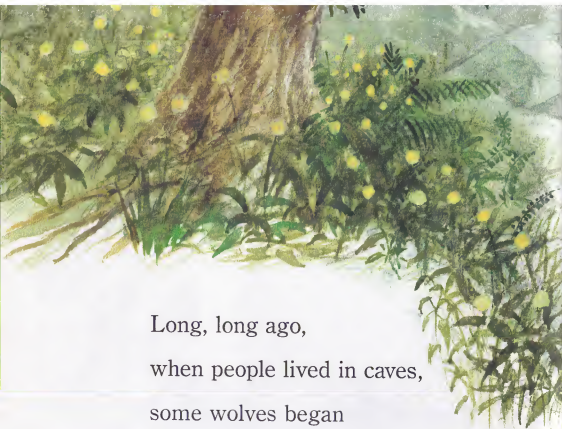
To a wolf, a howl
is a friendly sound.

Wolves howl to let other wolves
know where they are.

They may even howl
just for fun.

Sometimes a pet dog
throws back its head and howls.
It sounds just like a wolf!
That is because wolves and dogs
are close relatives.

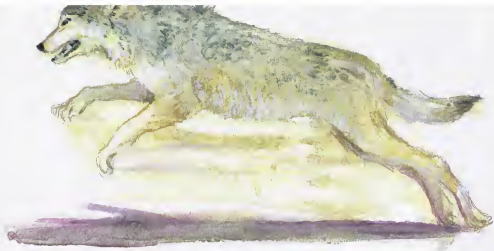




Long, long ago,
when people lived in caves,
some wolves began
to wait nearby
for the scraps of meat
that people threw away.
Cave children
played with the wolf pups.
Little by little,
the wolves became tame.



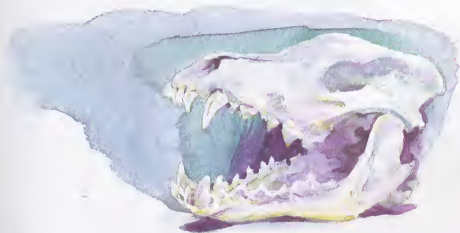
These tame wolves
were the first pets.
Every dog on earth today—
from tiny toy poodles
to big St. Bernards—
is related to them.



A few people still try
to tame wolves.
Eskimos have trained them
to pull dogsleds.
But a wolf
is not a house pet.
To be happy,
it must be wild and free.
A wolf's long legs
are made for running—
up to 40 miles in a single day!



Its huge paws can be
as large as a grownup's hand.
Its powerful jaws can crack
the leg bone of a moose
with a single snap.



To stay alive,
they need fresh meat—
lots of it.

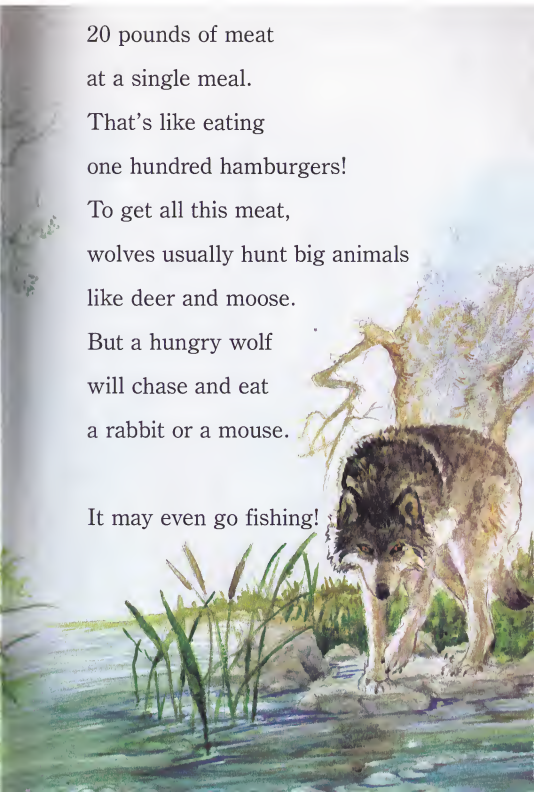


20 pounds of meat
at a single meal.
That's like eating
one hundred hamburgers!

To get all this meat,
wolves usually hunt big animals
like deer and moose.

But a hungry wolf
will chase and eat
a rabbit or a mouse.

It may even go fishing!



Wolves live in groups
called packs.

The pack members
“talk” to each other
with their bodies.

When a wolf is scared,
it holds its ears
close to its head.

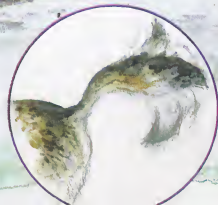
When a wolf is happy,
it wags its whole tail.

If it wags just the tip,
watch out!

It is getting ready to attack.

Other wolves know these signals.

The signals help the wolves
live together without fighting.



Every pack has a lead male
and a lead female.
The lead male is strong and smart.
He will fight any wolf
that tries to take over his pack.
The lead female
is usually the mother
of the pack's cubs.



The lead male
shows he is the boss
by the way he acts.
He looks the other wolves
right in the eye.

The other wolves tuck their tails
between their legs.
They rub noses with the leader
and lick his face.



In the spring
the lead female
gets ready to have pups.
She digs a den
in the side of a hill.
The other wolves help her.



The pups are born
in early May.
Their eyes are closed.
They cannot see or hear.
They live by drinking
their mother's milk.



In three weeks
the pups are big enough
to leave the den.
At first they are afraid.
But soon they are racing
up and down the hillside,
playing tag.

One pup sees a grasshopper.
She pounces—SWOOSH!
But the grasshopper gets away.
The pup looks surprised.
She tries again. And again.
This is the little wolf's
first lesson in hunting.



The adult wolves
take turns baby-sitting.
While the father
guards the pups,
they tug on his tail
and nip at his ears.
If they are too rough,
he just gets up and walks away.



The pups roll around,
pretending to fight.
One of them is stronger
than her sisters and brothers.
She holds her tail high.
She is already acting
like a lead wolf.



The pups are hungry
all the time.
When the older wolves
go hunting,
they chew extra food
and swallow it.
Back at the den,
they spit up the
chewed food—
and the hungry pups
get their first taste of meat!

By September the pups
are half-grown.
They spend hours chasing mice,
but they don't catch any.
They are too slow and clumsy.
But soon the pups will
hunt along with the pack.
In six months
they will be good hunters.

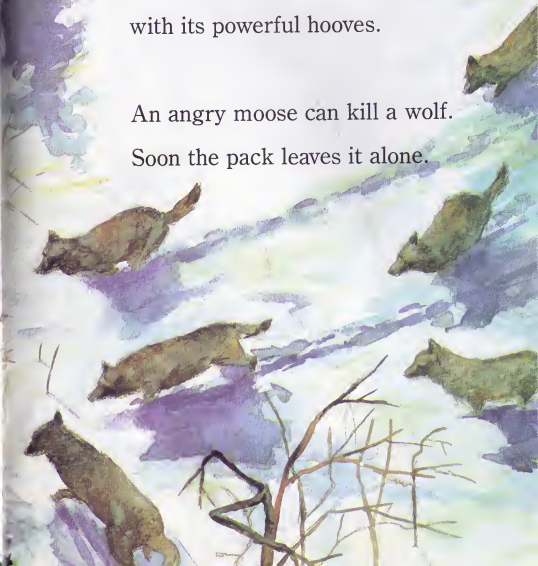


One cold November morning
the wolves smell moose nearby.
The pack moves out
in single file
across the snow.



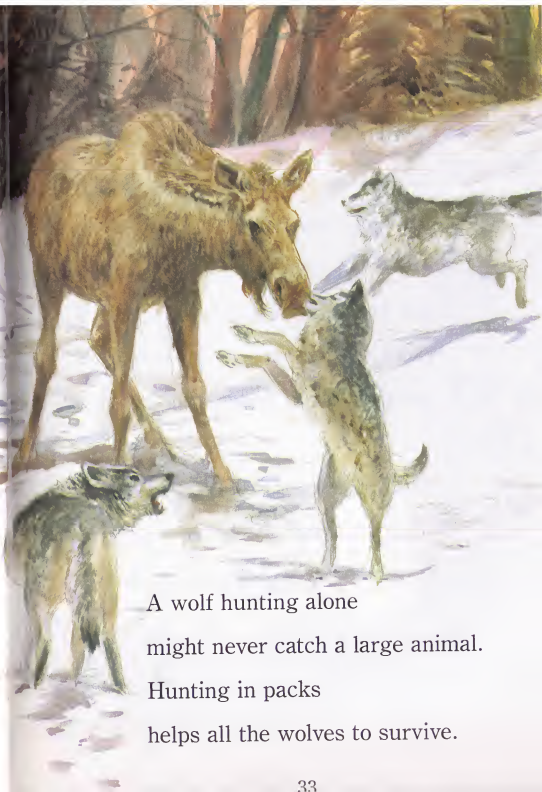
The wolves chase many moose.
Most of them run away.
But one big moose
stands and fights.
It kicks out
with its powerful hooves.

An angry moose can kill a wolf.
Soon the pack leaves it alone.





Finally, the wolves
find an old, sick moose.
It is too weak
to run or fight.
The pack fans out in a circle.
One wolf charges.
It bites the moose's nose
and hangs on tight.
In minutes the fight is over.
The hungry wolves can eat.



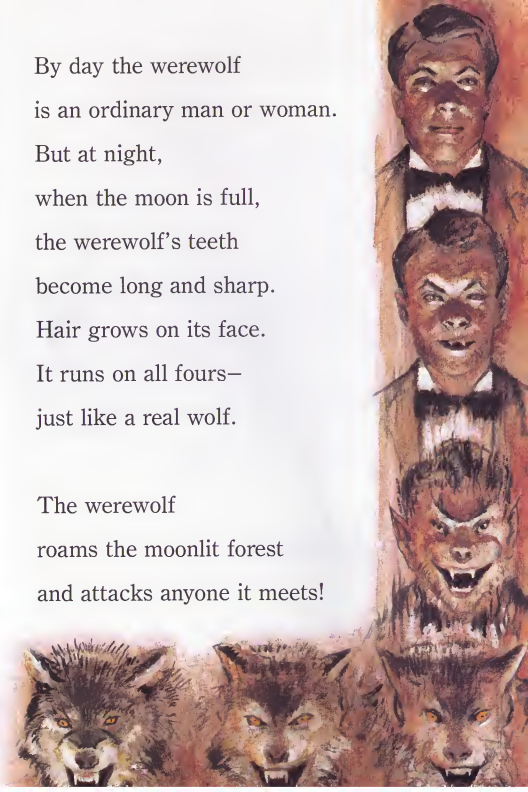
A wolf hunting alone
might never catch a large animal.
Hunting in packs
helps all the wolves to survive.

Many people
have never seen a live wolf.
The only wolves they meet
are in fairy tales
and horror movies.
Fairy tale wolves
are greedy and dangerous.

The scariest of all
make-believe wolves
is the werewolf.

By day the werewolf
is an ordinary man or woman.
But at night,
when the moon is full,
the werewolf's teeth
become long and sharp.
Hair grows on its face.
It runs on all fours—
just like a real wolf.

The werewolf
roams the moonlit forest
and attacks anyone it meets!





Legends about killer wolves
made many people believe
that wolves were their enemies.
For a long time
hunters shot every wolf
they could find.

They even shot wolves
from airplanes.

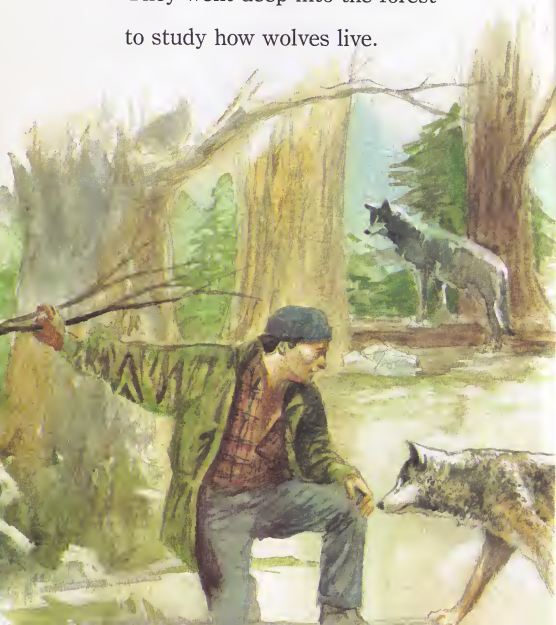
At last some scientists

began to wonder if wolves

really were so dangerous.

They went deep into the forest

to study how wolves live.



One scientist

was walking in the forest

when he met two wolves

by accident.

One wolf ran away.

The other wolf

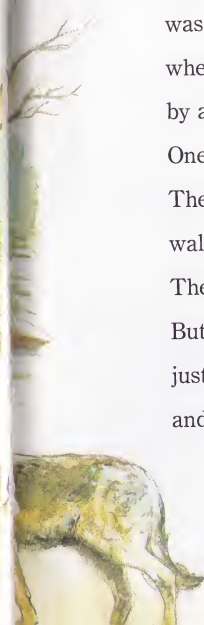
walked right up to him.

The scientist was scared.

But the wolf

just licked his face

and trotted away!



The scientists learned
that healthy wolves
do not attack people.
But when wolves
wander onto farms,
they soon learn
that a lamb or a calf
makes a good dinner.
Some farmers use sheepdogs
to scare away wolves.



Some kill wolves
with poison, traps, or guns.



The American Indians
did not fear wolves.
They admired the way
wolves lived in peace together.

The Sioux Indians
told the story of a woman
who got lost in a snowstorm.
A wolf pack saved her life.
The wolves brought her food.
They let her sleep in their den.
They taught her their secrets.

When the woman
went back to her own people,
she taught them
the secrets of the wolves.
She became a powerful magician.



A few hundred years ago
wolves lived all around the world.
Thousands of wolves
lived in North America.

Areas in red and black show where wolves once roamed. Areas in black
show where wolves can be found today.

Today there are many more people
and fewer wolves.

In most of the United States
there are no wolves left at all
except in zoos.





Wolves don't cause pollution.
They live without
hurting the land.
The pack hunts to survive.
There are always
moose and deer left
to have next spring's babies.



Today people are trying
to live in tune with nature,
as wolves do.
They want to save
some of the wild places
left on earth.

If that happens,
there will be
wild, wild wolves
howling in the forests
for years to come.



Step 1 Books

ALL STUCK UP
BABAR'S LITTLE CIRCUS STAR
BABY MOSES
BEEF STEW
BIG BIRD SAYS...
(A Sesame Street Book)
BIG BIRD'S COPYCAT DAY
(A Sesame Street Book)
CAVE BOY
DAVID AND THE GIANT
DINOSAUR BABIES
A DOZEN DOGS
A Read-and-Count Story
FIVE SILLY FISHERMEN
FOLLOW THE MONSTERS!
(A Sesame Street Book)
GROVER, GROVER, COME ON OVER
(A Sesame Street Book)
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, COOKIE MONSTER!
(A Sesame Street Book)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, THOMAS!
(A Thomas the Tank Engine Book)
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
(A Sesame Street Book)
HELLO, HOUSE!
LUCKY BEAR
MY NEW BOY
NOAH'S ARK
NO MAIL FOR MITCHELL
SIR SMALL AND THE DRAGONFLY
SLEEPY DOG
SO HUNGRY!
SO SICK!
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES*
PIZZA PARTY
THE TEENY TINY WOMAN
TIGER IS A SCAREDY CAT
TOAD ON THE ROAD
WAKE UP, SUN!

Step 2 Books

BABAR AND THE GHOST
BASEBALL BALLERINA
THE BEST LITTLE MONKEYS IN THE WORLD
THE BEST MISTAKE EVER!
And Other Stories
A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR MAMA
THE BRAVEST DOG EVER
The True Story of Balto
BUCK-BUCK THE CHICKEN
BULLY TROUBLE
THE CARE BEARS' PARTY COOKBOOK
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS
DINOSAUR DAYS
DOWN ON THE FUNNY FARM
THE FIRST THANKSGIVING
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LITTLE WITCH

THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN
HUNGRY, HUNGRY SHARKS
LITTLE WITCH'S BIG NIGHT
THE MISSING TOOTH
MOLLY THE BRAVE AND ME
MONKEY-MONKEY'S TRICK
NORMA JEAN, JUMPING BEAN
THE NUTCRACKER BALLET
THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN
PRETTY GOOD MAGIC
THE SPOOKY HALLOWEEN PARTY
THE SURPRISE PARTY
TOM THE TV CAT
WHALES: THE GENTLE GIANTS
WILD, WILD WOLVES

Step 3 Books

AMAZING RESCUES
CANNONBALL CHRIS
DEPUTY DAN AND THE BANK ROBBERS
DEPUTY DAN GETS HIS MAN
DOROTHY AND OLD KING CROW
THE LITTLE MERMAID
THE MYSTERY OF THE PIRATE GHOST
NO TOOTH, NO QUARTER!
POMPEII...BURIED ALIVE!

THE SECRET OF FOGHORN ISLAND
SINGING SAM
SOCCER SAM
SPACE ROCK
THE TITANIC: LOST...AND FOUND
THE TREASURE OF THE LOST LAGOON
TUT'S MUMMY: LOST...AND FOUND
20,000 BASEBALL CARDS UNDER THE SEA

Step 4 Books

BARRY
The Bravest St. Bernard
BASEBALL'S BEST
Five True Stories
BASEBALL'S GREATEST PITCHERS
(Step into Sports)
COMEBACK!
(Step into Sports)
DINOSAUR HUNTERS
JACKIE ROBINSON AND THE STORY OF
ALL-BLACK BASEBALL

MOONWALK
The First Trip to the Moon
THE TROJAN HORSE
How the Greeks Won the War
A WALL OF NAMES
The Story of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
WHO SHOT THE PRESIDENT?
The Death of John F. Kennedy
WITCH HUNT
It Happened in Salem Village

Step into Reading™ with WILD, WILD WOLVES

Did you know that
when a wolf wags
the tip of its tail,
it is getting ready to attack?
Or that a wolf's paws are as big
as a grownup's hand?
Or that a wolf can eat the
same as 100 hamburgers
in a single meal?
Find out all about wolves
in this exciting, easy-to-read book!

Don't miss the other Step into Reading Books
listed on the inside back cover.



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